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Current Employment Statistics Highlights



Feb 2023

Release Date: March 10, 2023

**Prepared by Analysts of the National Estimates Branch
Current Employment Statistics Survey
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**

202-691-6555

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Current Employment Statistics Summary, February 2023

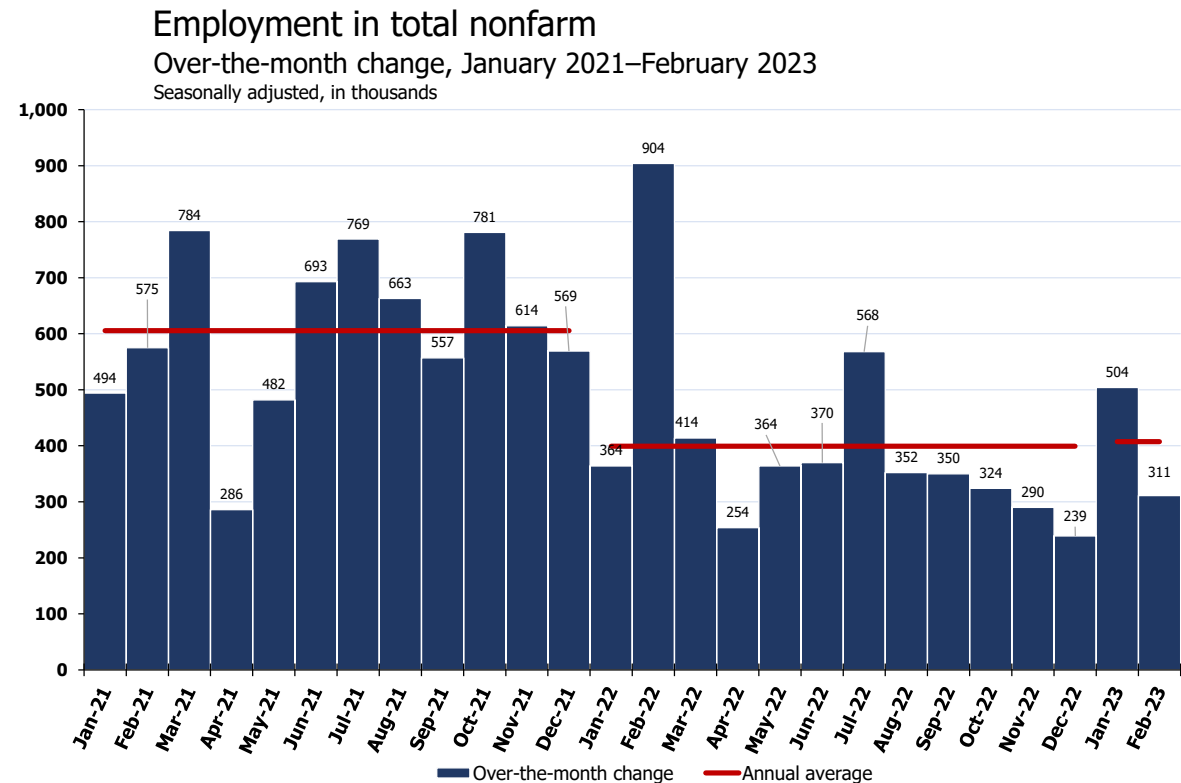
Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 311,000 in February, compared with an average gain of 343,000 over the prior 6 months. In February, notable job gains occurred in leisure and hospitality, retail trade, government, and health care. Employment declined in information and in transportation and warehousing.

In February, average hourly earnings of all employees on private-sector payrolls rose by 8 cents, or 0.2 percent. Over the year, hourly earnings increased by 4.6 percent. In February, average weekly hours edged down by 0.1 hour to 34.5 hours.

The seasonally adjusted employment change for December 2022 revised down from +260,000 to +239,000 and the change for January revised down from +517,000 to +504,000. On net, the employment change over these months is 34,000 lower than previously reported.

+105,000 Leisure and Hospitality

In February, employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 105,000, compared with average monthly gains of 91,000 over the prior 6 months. Within the industry, food



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, March 10, 2023.
Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.

services and drinking places added 70,000 jobs over the month.

+74,000 Private Education and Health Services

Employment in health care increased by 44,000 in February, including gains in hospitals (+19,000) and in nursing and residential care

Current Employment Statistics Survey Summary, February 2023

facilities (+14,000). Employment in social assistance rose by 19,000 over the month.

+50,000 Retail Trade

In February, employment in retail trade rose by 50,000. Employment in general merchandise retailers increased by 39,000 in February, with gains occurring in warehouse clubs, supercenters, and other general merchandise retailers (+25,000) and department stores (+15,000). Over the year, retail trade employment is little changed.

+46,000 Government

Government added 46,000 jobs in February, in line with its prior 6-month average gain of 44,000 per month.

+45,000 Professional and Business Services

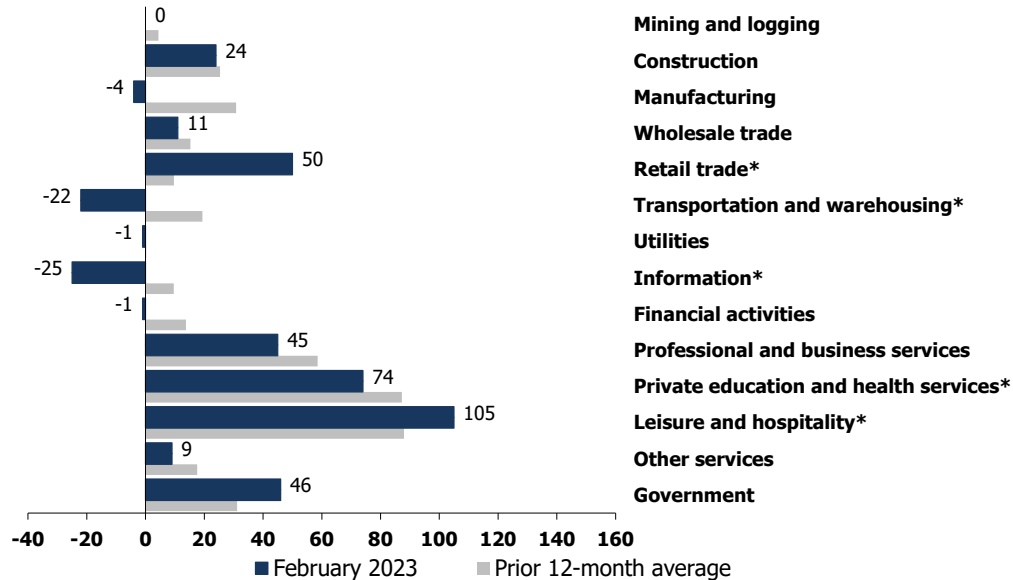
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in February (+45,000), compared with average monthly gains of 35,000 over the prior 6 months. Within the industry, employment continued to trend up in professional, scientific, and technical services (+20,000) and in office administrative services (+4,000).

Employment in total nonfarm

Over-the-month change, February 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

Total nonfarm:
311*



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2023.
Data are preliminary.
* denotes significance

-25,000 Information

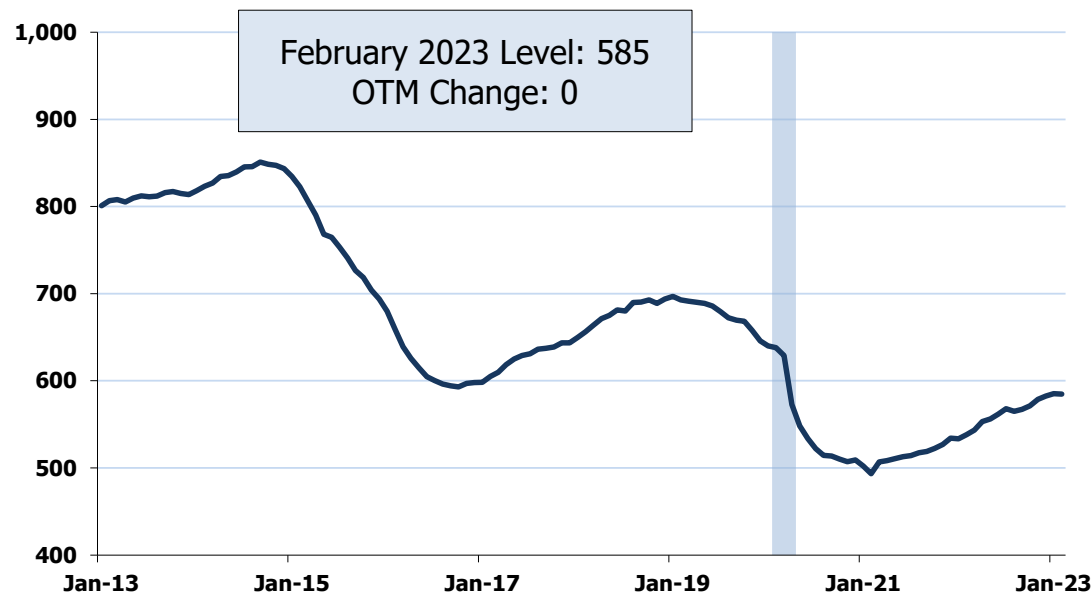
Employment in information declined by 25,000 in February. Over the last 3 months, information lost 54,000 jobs.

-22,000 Transportation and Warehousing

In February, employment in transportation and warehousing declined by 22,000, including a loss in truck transportation (-9,000). Employment in transportation and warehousing is down by 42,000 since October.

Mining and Logging

Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
January 2013–February 2023
 Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

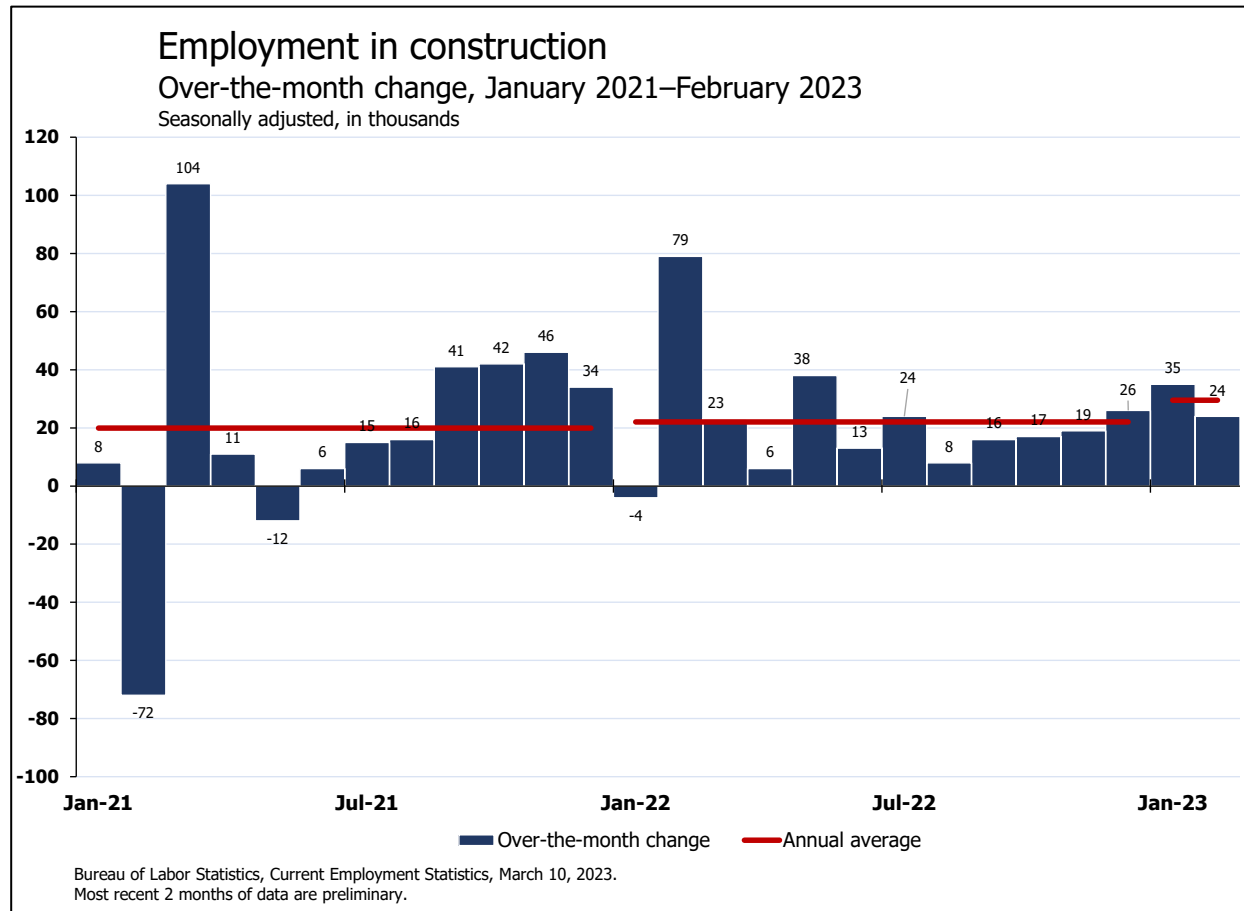


Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics survey, March 10, 2023.
 Shaded area represents recession as denoted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
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Employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction was unchanged in February.

The recent employment trend in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction coincides with a decrease in [North American rotary rigs](#) and an increase in the average weekly price of [West Texas Intermediate crude oil](#) in recent months.

Construction

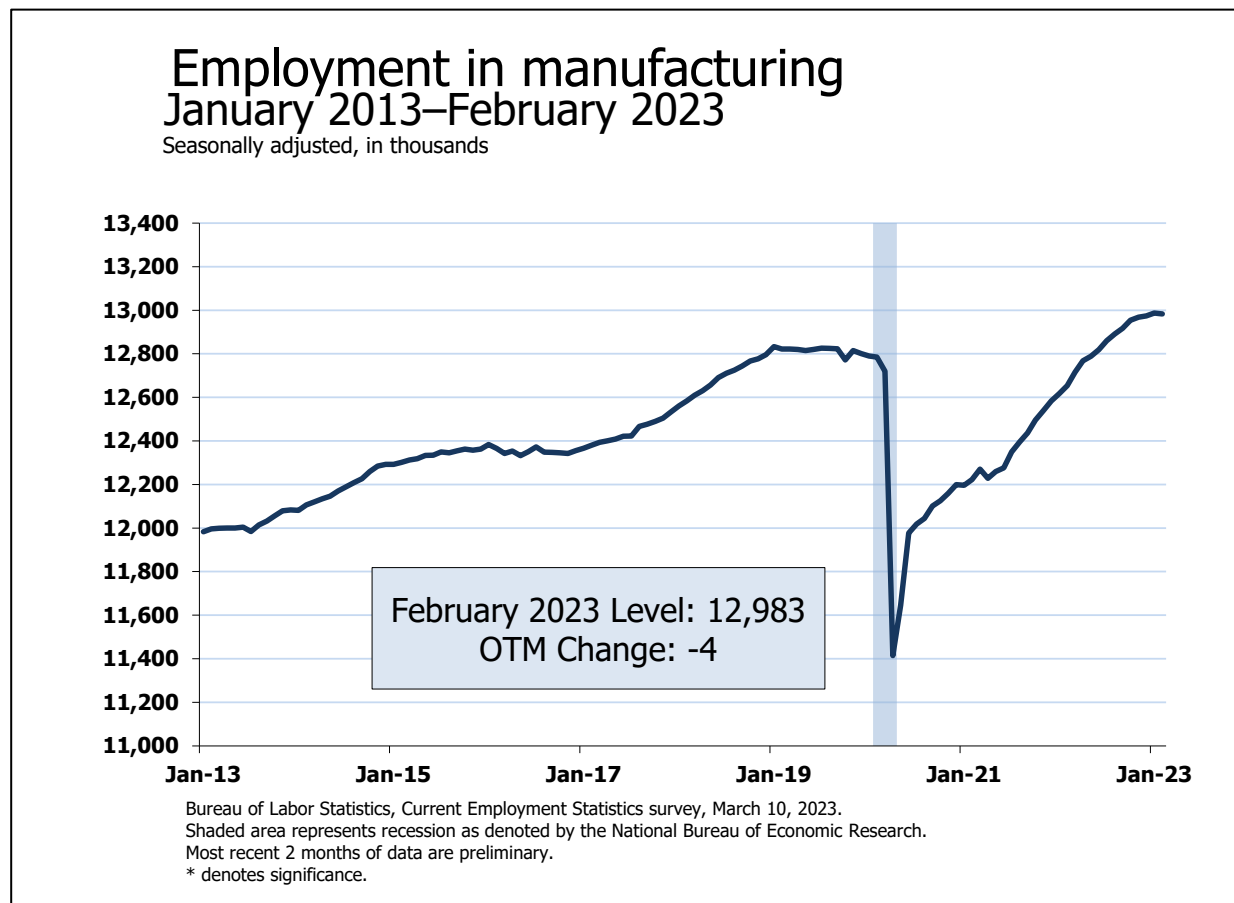


Employment in construction rose by 24,000 in February, similar to its prior 6-month average gain of 20,000 per month.

In February, employment edged up in specialty trade contractors (+13,000).

The strength in February construction employment follows the largest one-month gain in the [NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index](#) since July 2020.

Manufacturing



Manufacturing employment changed little in February (-4,000), compared with an average monthly gain of 21,000 over the prior 6 months. Despite this, employment in manufacturing has expanded by 150,000 jobs since its most recent January 2019 peak.

In February, the manufacturing 1-month diffusion index fell by 4.2 to 47.2, the first time the index has fallen below 50 since July 2020. A number below 50 indicates that more manufacturing industries are losing jobs than are adding jobs.

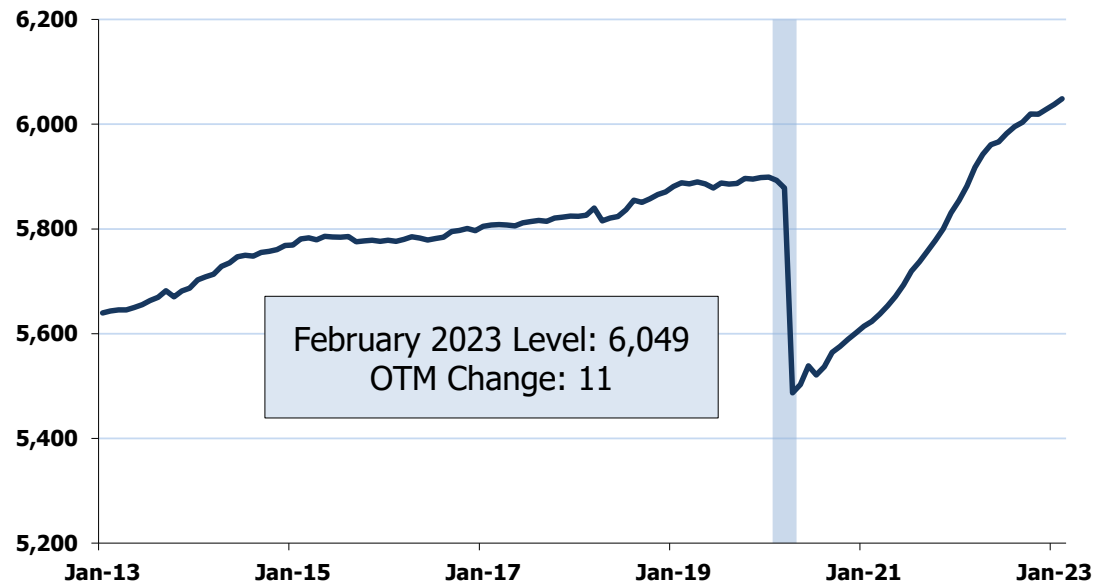
Recent manufacturing employment changes corresponds with weakness in both the [Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Managers' Index \(PMI\)](#) and the [S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI](#), which measure business sentiment and expectations.

In February, average weekly hours of all employees in manufacturing edged down by 0.2 hour to 40.3 hours. The average workweek of production employees edged down by 0.2 hour to 40.7 hours. Average weekly overtime hours for all employees edged down by 0.1 hour to 3.0 hours and by 0.1 hour to 3.7 hours for production workers.

Wholesale Trade

Employment in wholesale trade January 2013–February 2023

Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

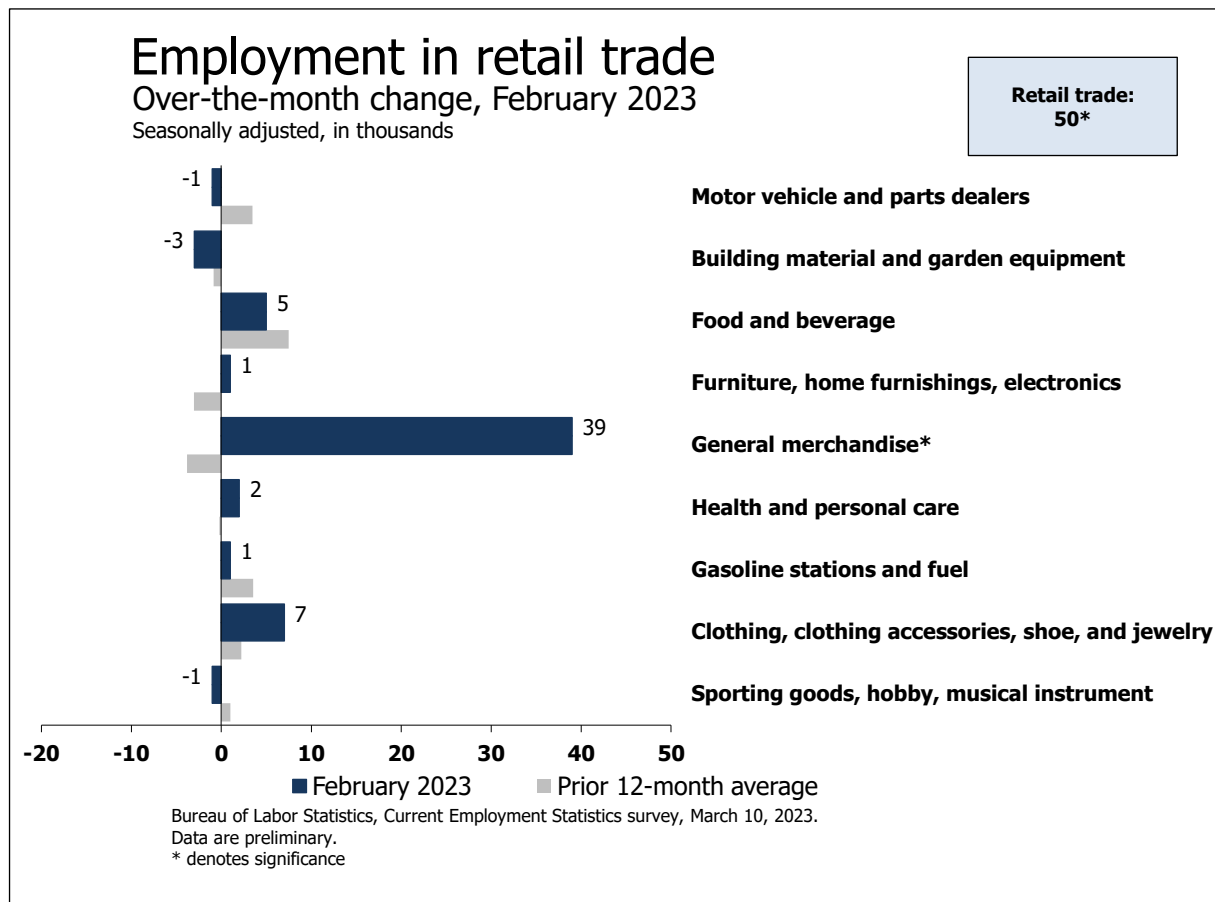


February 2023 Level: 6,049
OTM Change: 11

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Employment in wholesale trade changed little in February (+11,000), in line with its prior 6-month average gain (+9,000).

Retail Trade



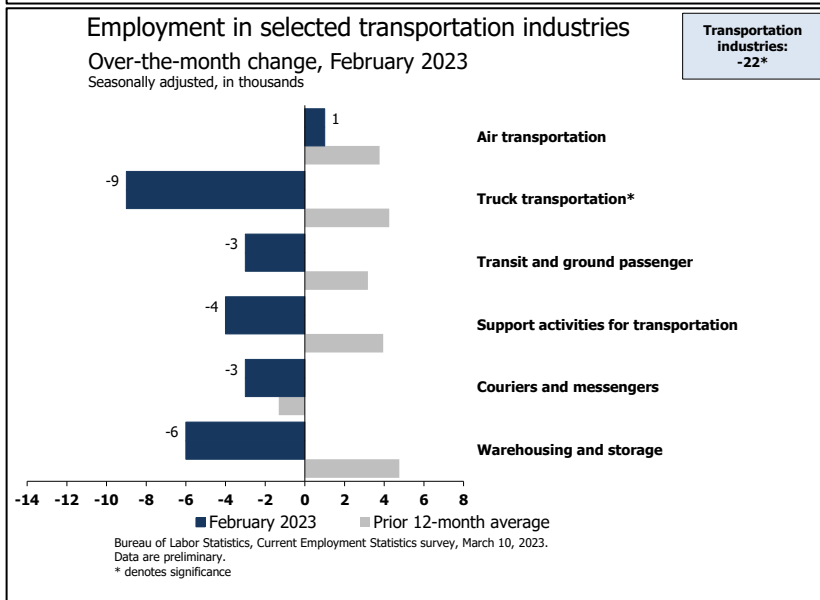
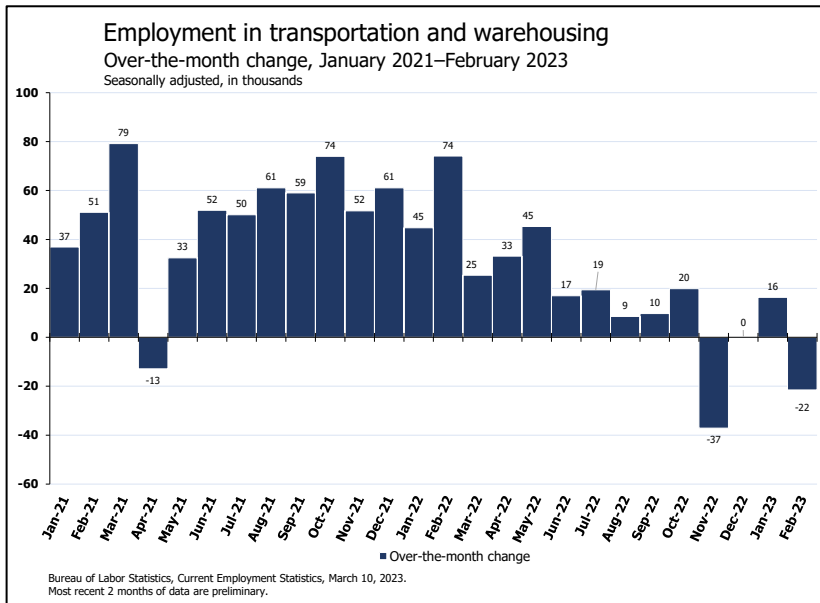
Employment in retail trade increased by 50,000 in February, with gains concentrated in general merchandise retailers (+39,000). Over the year, retail trade employment is little changed, on net.

Within the general merchandise retailers industry, warehouse clubs, supercenters, and other general merchandise retailers (+25,000) and department stores (+15,000) added jobs over the month.

Retail-related economic indicators for the month are mixed. In February, the per-gallon price of [regular gasoline](#) increased, and the [Consumer Confidence Index](#) and [Auto Sales](#) decreased. In contrast, [Retail Sales](#) and [Real Personal Consumption Expenditures](#) for goods increased in January.

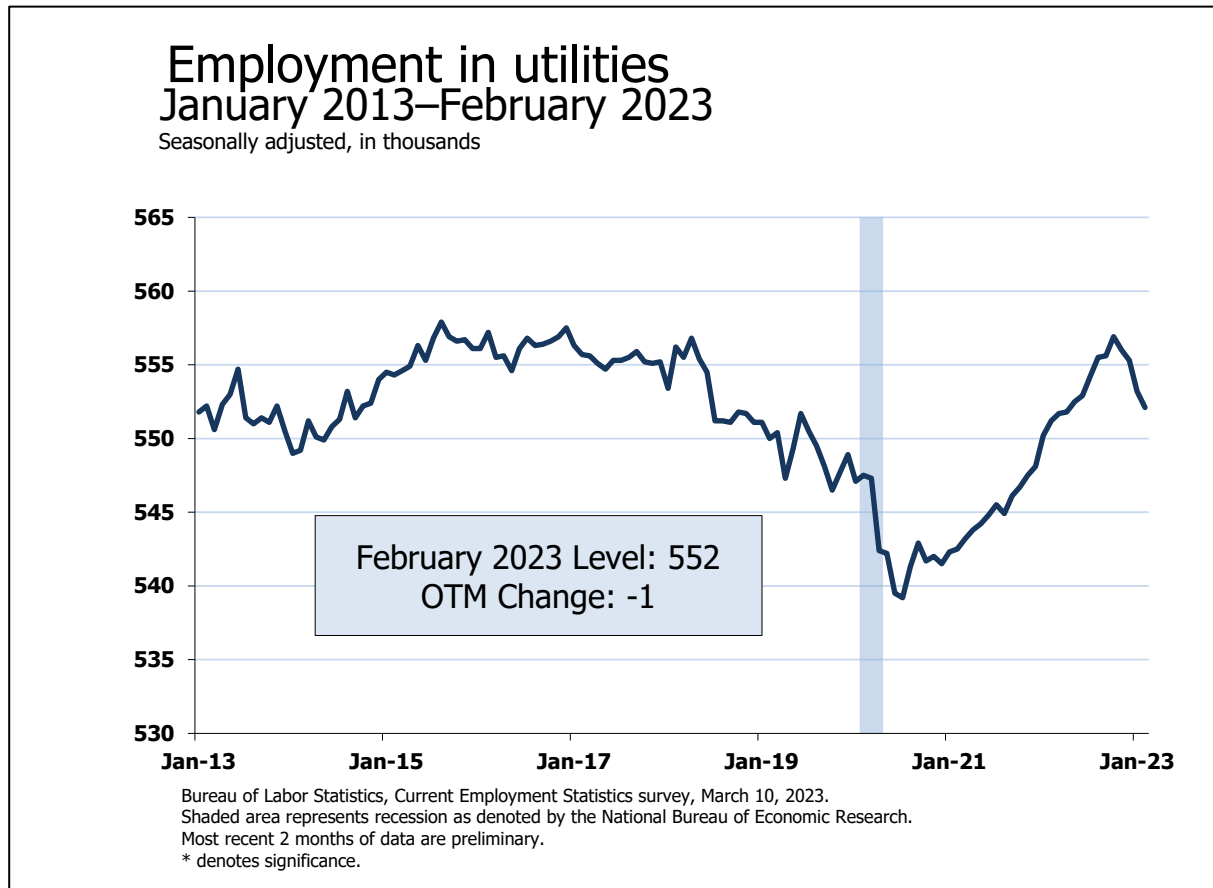
Transportation and Warehousing

Employment in transportation and warehousing decreased by 22,000 in February, with truck transportation accounting for 9,000 of the loss. Employment in transportation and warehousing is down by 42,000 since October.



Utilities

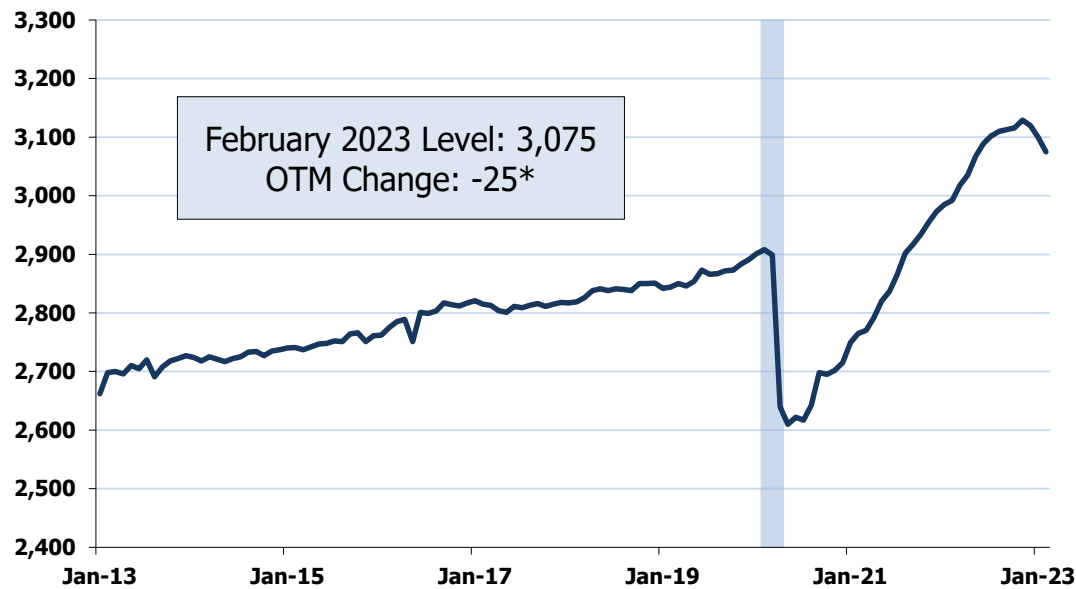
Employment in utilities changed little in February.



Information

Employment in information January 2013–February 2023

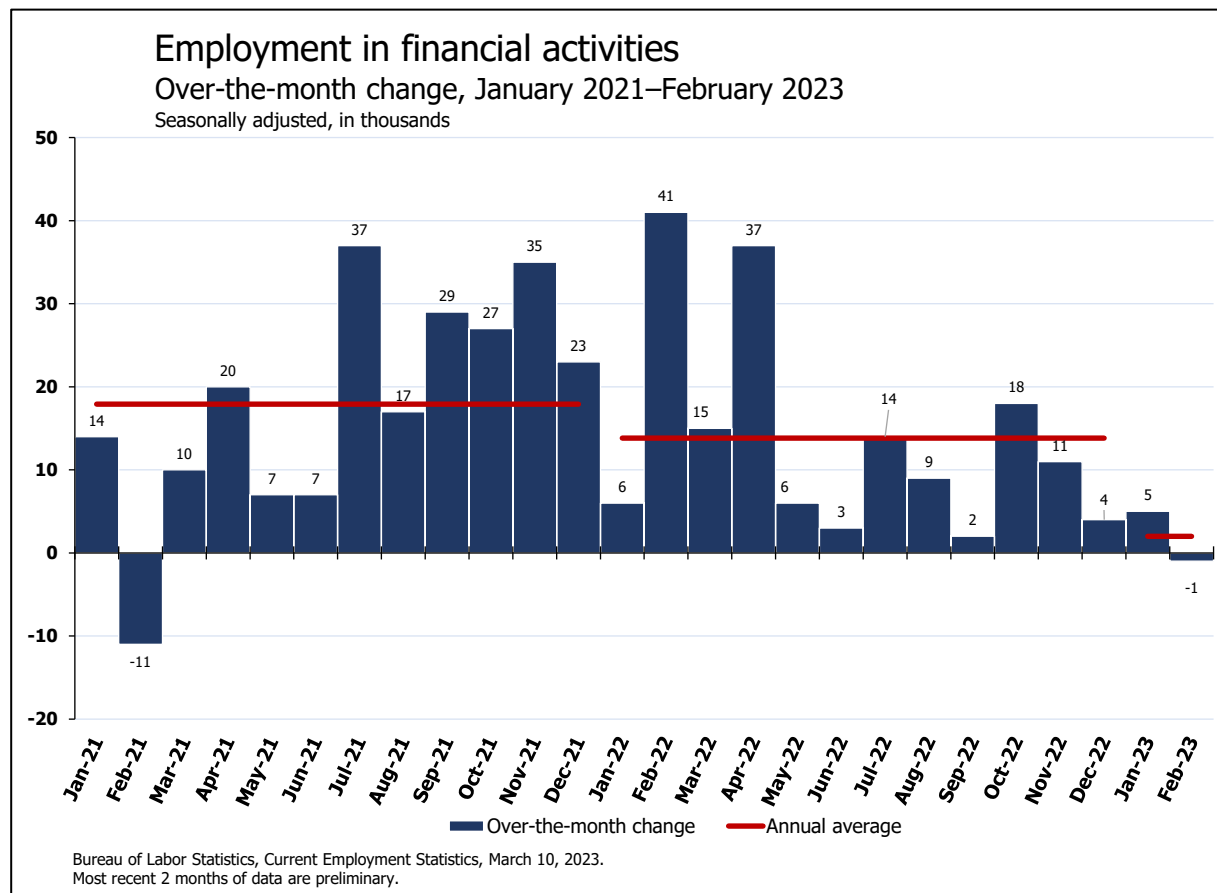
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands



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In February, the information industry shed 25,000 jobs. Employment in motion picture and sound recording industries (-9,000) and telecommunications (-3,000) continued to trend down. Employment in information has decreased by 54,000 since November.

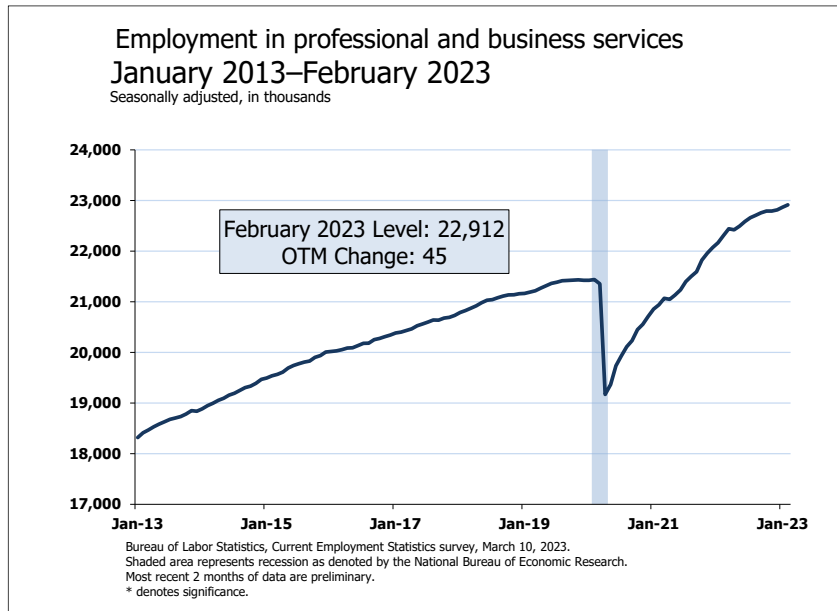
Financial Activities



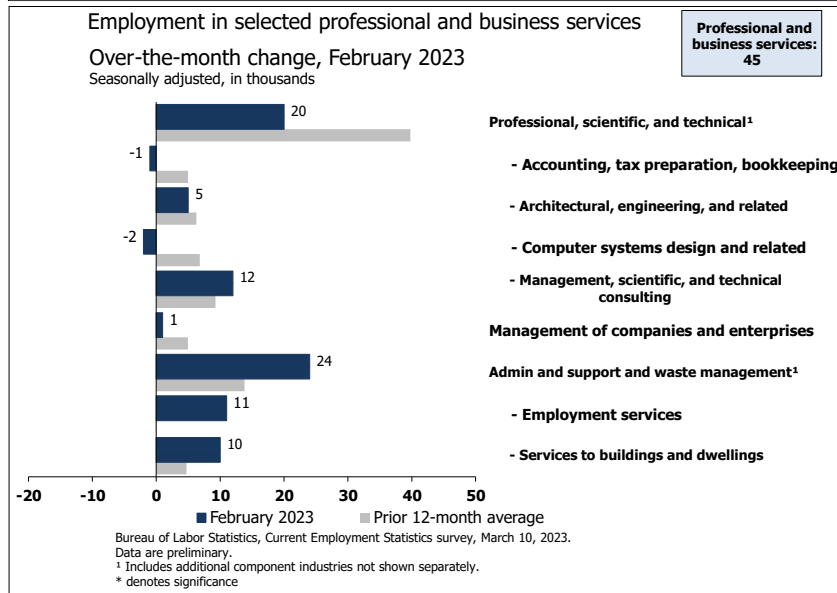
Employment in financial activities changed little in February (-1,000).

In February, employment continued to trend down in nondepository credit intermediation (-7,000) and activities related to credit intermediation (-3,000), while employment in real estate and rental and leasing trended up (+9,000).

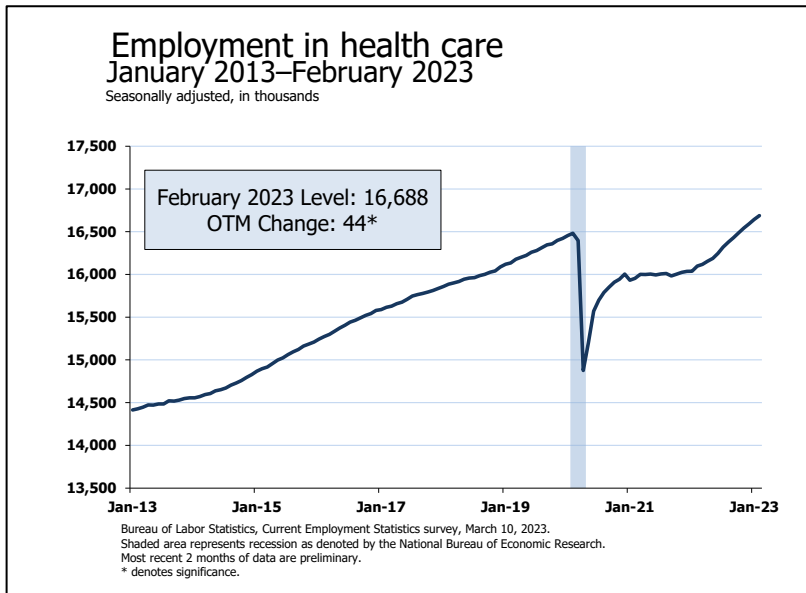
Professional and Business Services



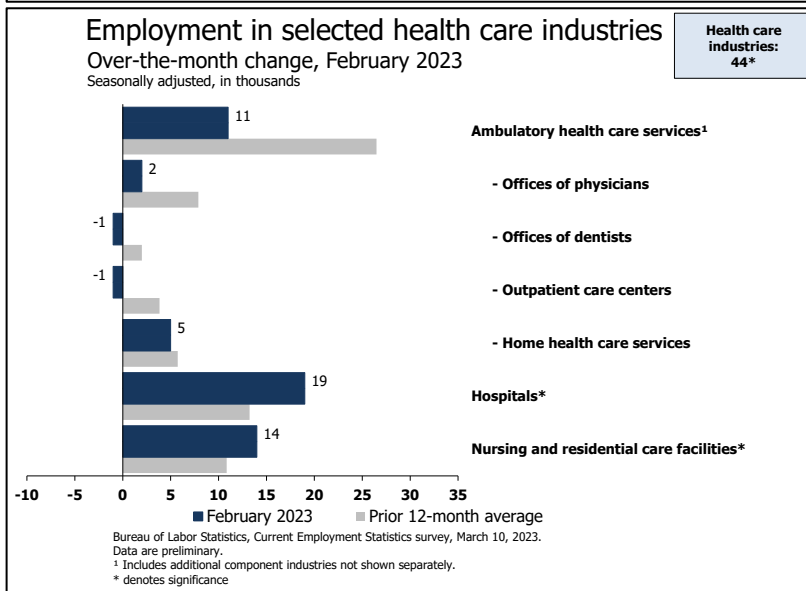
Employment in professional and business services continued to trend up in February (+45,000), in line with an average monthly increase of 35,000 over the prior 6 months. Over the month, management, scientific, and technical consulting added 12,000 jobs. Temporary help services changed little over the month (+7,000), coinciding with recent weakness in the [ASA Staffing Index](#).



Private Education and Health Services



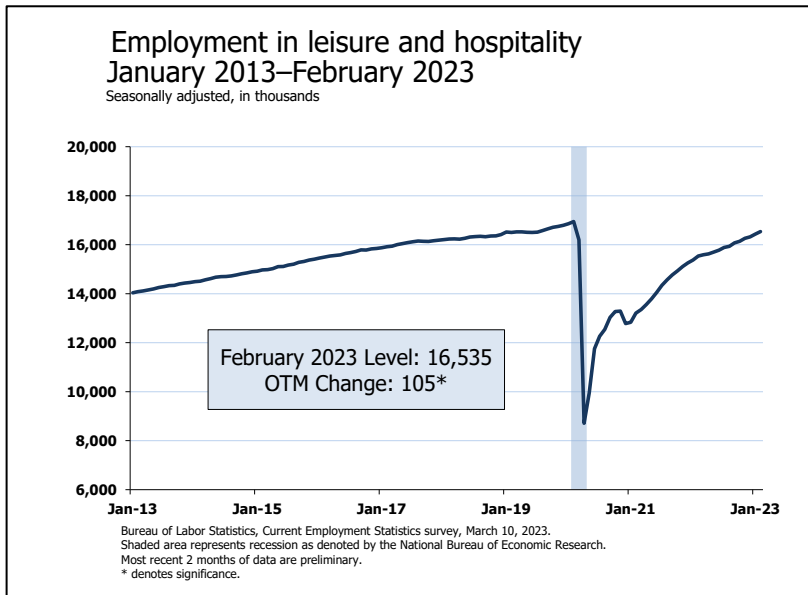
Employment in health care increased by 44,000 in February, compared with the average monthly gain of 54,000 over the prior 6 months.



Within health care, hospitals (+19,000) and nursing and residential care facilities (+14,000) added jobs in February.

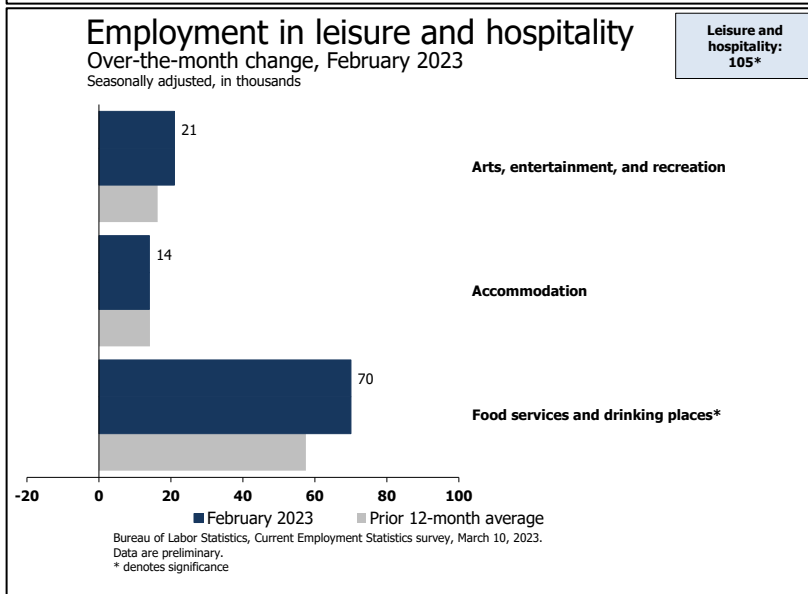
Employment in social assistance rose by 19,000 over the month, similar to the average monthly gain of 22,000 over the prior 6 months.

Leisure and Hospitality



In February, employment in leisure and hospitality grew by 105,000, similar to the prior 6-month average gain of 91,000 per month.

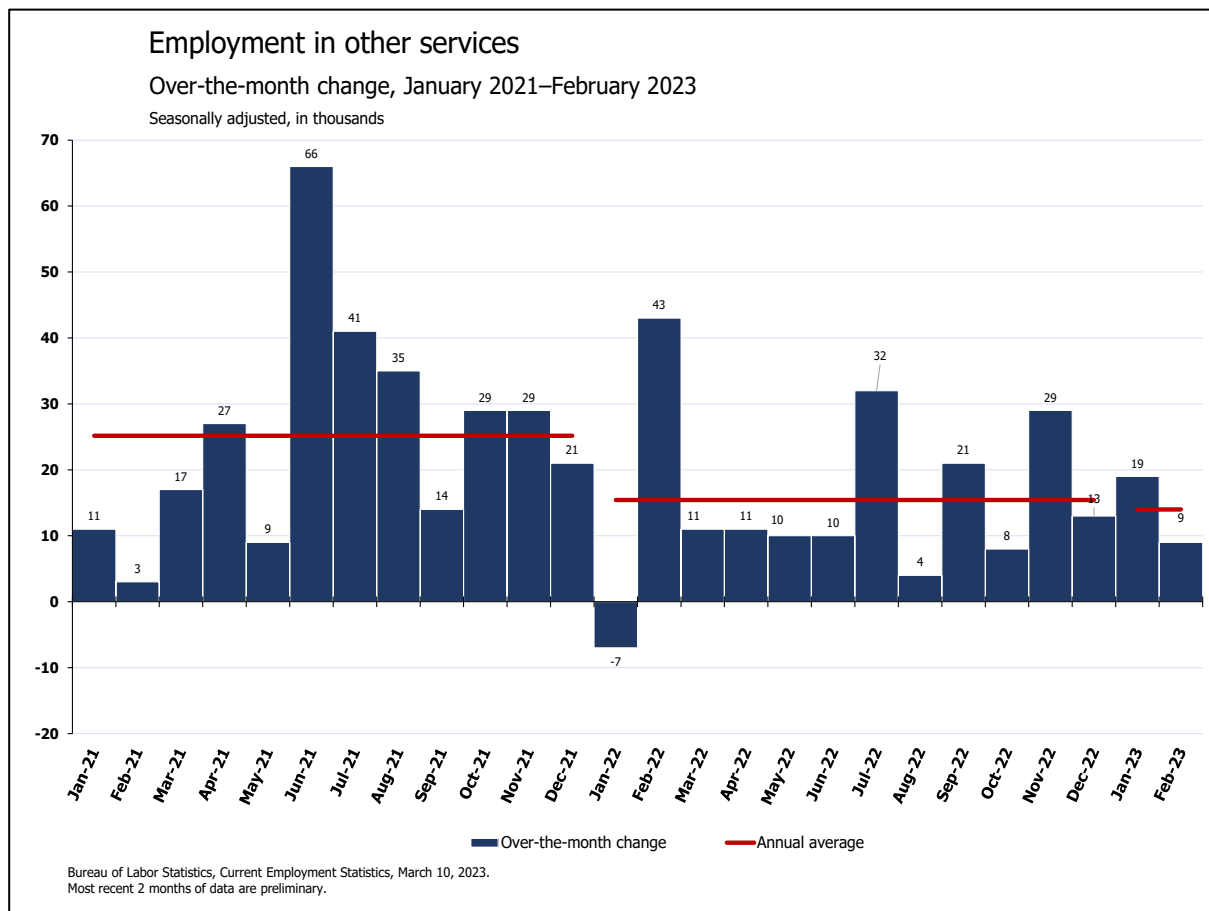
Over the year, average hourly earnings for all employees in leisure and hospitality rose 6.9 percent to \$20.83.



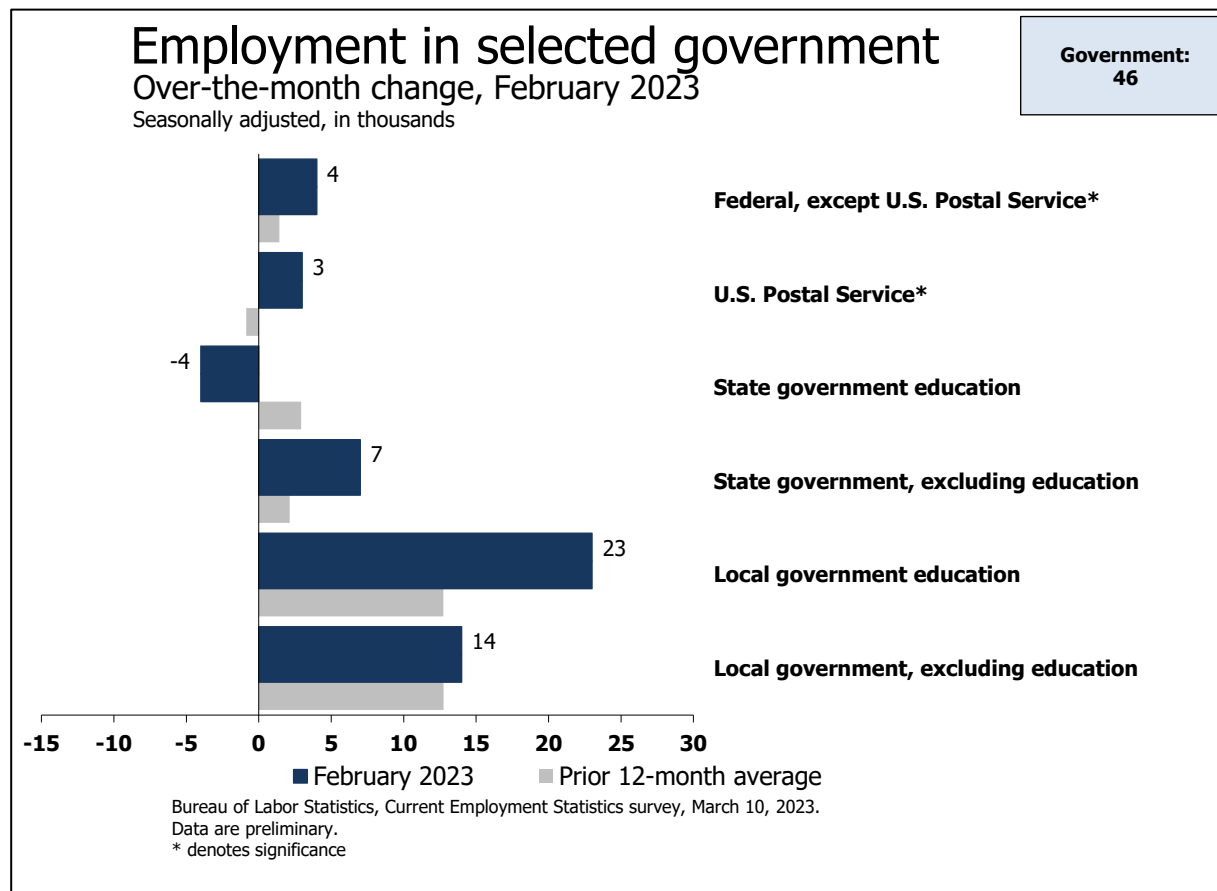
Employment in food services and drinking places increased by 70,000 in February and is 108,000 below its February 2020 level. Accommodation employment continued to trend up in February (+14,000) and is 238,000 below its February 2020 level.

Other Services

Employment in other services changed little in February (+9,000), below its prior 6-month average gain of 16,000 per month. Employment in other services is 114,000 below its February 2020 level.



Government



Employment in government increased by 46,000 in February, in line with its prior 6-month average gain of 44,000. Employment in local government continued to trend up in February (+37,000). Government employment is below its February 2020 level by 376,000.



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